Claims

1. A clamp (1) comprising two arms (3, 4) with gripping tips in the form of two jaws (5, 6) for supporting and positioning a superelastic osteosynthesis clip (2), said osteosynthesis clip (2) comprising a web (23) from which two flanges (21, 22) intended to be inserted into two portions of bone emerge, said clamp (1) being **characterized in that** it comprises:

- a first means (11) for preventing jaws (5, 6) of each arm (3, 4) from being opened in order to prevent clip (2) from opening beyond a point at which the angle between flanges (21, 22) and web (23) is greater than 90°;
- a second means (9, 10) for preventing jaws (5, 6) from being closed in order to prevent clip (2) from closing beyond a point at which the angle between flanges (21, 22) and the web is substantially 90°;

2. A clamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that first means (11) consists of a component separately mounted on one of arms (3, 4).

3. A clamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that first means (11) consists of a protuberance on one of arms (3, 4).

4. A clamp as claimed in either claim 2 or 3, characterized in that first means (11) comes into contact with opposite arm (3, 4) in order to prevent opening of jaws (5, 6).

5. A clamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that second means (9, 10) comprises a component (8) separately mounted on one of arms (3, 4) and comprising at least one tooth that cooperates with a sharp edge on opposite arm (3, 4).

6. A clamp as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that component (8) can swivel relative to arm (3, 4) on which it is mounted.

7. A clamp as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the two arms (3, 4) comprise an elastic return means making it possible to keep them apart.

8. A clamp as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that first means (11) is adjustable so as to allow variation in the extent of over-opening of clip (2).

9. A clamp as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that second means (9, 10) is adjustable so as to allow parallel positioning of flanges (21, 22) of clip (2) depending on the size of its web (23).

10. A clamp as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that, for a superelastic osteosynthesis clip which has a deformation curve as a function of stress having a line B-C that represents opening of said clip and a line C-B'-A' that represents its closing, over-opening of said clip by first means (11) corresponds substantially to portion C-C' of the curve where C' corresponds to intersection of the tangent lines between the return plateau, closure B'-A' and the fall from C.